



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/20/2015
Time: 02:00 PM
Location: 309
Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0374, SD2 RELATING TO DUAL CREDIT PROGRAMS.

Purpose of Bill: Renames the "running start program" as the "dual credit program". Broadens participation to include ninth and tenth graders. Replaces a standardized test with an assessment. Repeals tuition and fees requirement. Requires that all additional qualifications be uniform across all campuses. Appropriates moneys to the department of education and the University of Hawaii for positions. (SD2)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports S.B 0374, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget.

The Department recognizes the critical importance of education as an investment in the future of our students and our state's economy. A well-educated and highly skilled workforce helps maintain Hawaii's economic competitiveness, supports higher tax revenues due to higher incomes, places fewer demands on social services, and improves civic engagement. Research has shown that students who earn college credit while in high schools are more likely to graduate, enroll in college, and earn a college degree.

Unfortunately, too many families cannot afford to provide this opportunity to their students. There is no legislative funding currently appropriated for dual credit programs, leaving students and their families to cover the cost for participating in programs such as Running Start. Given the demonstrated benefits of dual credit programs to students and the state as a whole, it is imperative that the state provide funding to allow as many students as possible access to these opportunities.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony presented before the
House Committees on Education and Higher Education
March 20, 2015 at 2:00 pm
By Karen C. Lee, Ed.D.
Associate Vice President and
Executive Director, Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education

SB 374 SD2 – RELATING TO DUAL CREDIT PROGRAMS

Chairs Takumi and Choy, Vice Chairs Ohno and Ichiyama, and Members of the Committees:

SB 374 SD2 expands the current running start legislation to include all dual credit programs, broadens the definition of an eligible student to include all high school students, and replaces the standardized test to determine college readiness with assessments for college placement. It also appropriates moneys to these programs.

The University strongly supports this bill. Hawai'i has had a history of promoting dual credit opportunities, mainly through the Running Start program, which allows high school students to take college level courses for college and high school credit at a UH campus, for over 10 years. The outcomes of these students show that they have higher college-going rates, higher likelihood to enroll in college, higher likelihood to remain in college, and higher likelihood to graduate with a degree or certificate. The University, in partnership with the Hawai'i Department of Education, is expanding the dual credit program to include the Early College High School program, which allows high school students to take college level courses at their high school campus and which targets students who would not traditionally go to college, as well as the Jump Start program, which gives high school seniors on a career/technical education track to spend their last year of high school as a full-time community college student. This bill will consolidate these successful dual credit programs to maximize our existing resources and leverage the current grant funding that has been sustaining these initiatives on a small scale thus far.

Because early indications from Hawai'i high schools show better college-going rates and success rates of these students than regular incoming college students, we support this bill's efforts to give more of Hawaii's keiki a chance at college and career success. Some of these students, particularly at high schools such as Waipahu, Waiakea, and Kaimuki, are on track to graduate with a college associate's degree upon high school graduation. Nationally, a recent report from the American Institutes for Research shows early college students have higher rates of high school graduation, college enrollment and college completion.

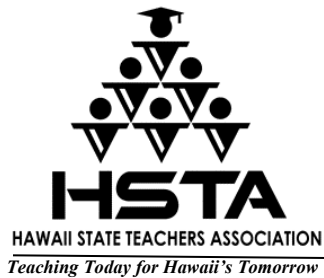
Currently, high schools are able to run these dual credit programs in partnership with UH campuses through private foundation grants, federal grant dollars, and payment of

tuition by families who can afford to pay. However, because the early college high school program is expanding rapidly and because it targets underrepresented, low-income, first-generation college students, the ability to sustain this popular program is in jeopardy. We ask that the state fund these programs to broaden participation for students through both the Hawai'i Department of Education and the University of Hawai'i.

In the 2014-15 school year, Hawai'i has over 1,400 students enrolled in dual credit courses. The \$1.84 million request to the Hawai'i DOE would fund 30 students at every DOE high school to earn 6 college credits in one year through the Early College program. Research shows that earning at least 6 credits aids college-going and success. It would also fund 2 full time positions – one to act as the fiscal and operations administrator of the funds and distribute the funds equitably to schools; the other to provide programmatic and technical support to the schools and colleges in setting up the programs, determining courses, and acting as liaison between K-12 and higher education. These two positions do not exist currently; the functions are performed by temporary personnel at Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education which is funded by private and federal grants.

The \$800,000 request to UH would award scholarships to approximately 1200 students to take Running Start courses (those taken at the college campus) and to be in the Jump Start program (program for 12th graders to spend their senior year at the college, taking a full year of career and technical education courses). Some of these students take more than 1 course each year. The funding request would also fund one position to coordinate the scholarship application process, distribute funds to students equitably, and coordinate the early college taskforce. The position currently exists as a temporary position at Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education, funded by private and federal funds.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES
ON EDUCATION AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Wil Okabe
President
Joan Kamila Lewis
Vice President
Colleen Pasco
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

DATE: FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2015

RE: S.B. 374, S.D. 2 - RELATING TO DUAL CREDIT PROGRAMS

PERSON TESTIFYING: JOAN LEWIS, VICE PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chairs Roy Takumi, Isaac Choy and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Hawai'i's 13,500 public and public charter school teachers, The Hawai'i State Teachers' Association stands in **support of S.B. 374, S.D. 2.**

Providing our students with a path to expand their learning opportunities is essential if we, as a state, are committed to the public good that comes from a well-educated constituency.

As addressed in this legislation, both the plan for Dual Credit programs, as well as ensuring that all students who qualify can participate in these programs, demonstrates the commitment that our legislative leaders are willing to make towards this end.

More importantly, the language of S.B. 374 S.D. 2 makes clear that Hawai'i's legislative body believes that multiple measures for determining program readiness are essential if we are trying to appropriately ensure that all those who are ready are effectively and accurately identified. The specific deletion of standardized tests as the determining assessment indicates that this body sees the limitation of reliance on such a measurement tool.

Dual credit opportunities and their requisite resource supports will promote the type of educational excellence that will help our students to strive to their highest potential.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of S.B. 376, S.D. 2.**

**Testimony presented to the House Committees on Education and Higher Education
March 20, 2015 at 2:00pm**

**By
Farrah-Marie Gomes, Director, North Hawai'i Education and Research Center**

SB 374, SD 2 – RELATING TO DUAL CREDIT PROGRAMS

Dear Chair Takumi, Chair Choy and Members of the Committees,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 374, SD 2 relating to education and dual credit programs. I submit this testimony as the Director of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo's North Hawai'i Education and Research Center (NHERC) and not as a representative of the University of Hawai'i system.

Founded in 2006, the NHERC is located in Honoka'a, 40 miles north of the main UH Hilo campus and serves the rural communities of Hamakua and North Hawai'i on Hawai'i Island. The Center offers UH Hilo college courses. The first course was offered in 2008. Since then, NHERC has enrolled a total of 517 students. Of those students, 221 (42.7%) have been high school students. More than 95% of the high school students who attend classes at NHERC receive a Gear-Up voucher or a foundation scholarship. There are many more students who would like to attend and who meet the eligibility requirements to attend, but cannot afford the tuition.

NHERC works closely with Honoka'a High School and Kanu o ka 'Aina public charter school in Waimea to administer the Running Start programs on their campuses. Most recently, NHERC partnered with Kohala High School as participants in the Early College High School program. The classes that NHERC offers are often the types of classes that high schools used to offer, but started to eliminate when resources were cut. Through the dual credit programs, students have been able to take advantage of the classes offered by NHERC to fulfill their high school requirements with classes that their campus is no longer able to offer. In this way, the University and Department of Education systems are working nicely to complement each other.

In addition to the college classes that students participate in, they are also eligible to receive support on other matters related to their college experience, such as information on the processes for admissions, financial aid, and advising. Access to faculty members in the classroom and academic support specialists outside of the classroom enriches the college experience for high school students and provides them with support that is often not available to them through the high schools or their home environments. This is critical to long-term success for high school students since many of those who enroll at NHERC are first-generation college students.

For many students, especially those in rural communities like those in our service area, the dual credit opportunity provides a real sense of hope for their future. Anecdotally, many students credit their pursuit of higher education to their participation in a dual credit program. For all of the reasons stated above, I strongly encourage the Committees to support this bill. Again, thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

TO: House Committee on Education
House Committee on Higher Education

DATE: March 20, 2015
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 309
Hawai'i State Capitol

FROM: Kamehameha Schools

RE: SB 374, SD2, RELATING TO DUAL CREDIT PROGRAMS

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 374, SD2, relating to the dual credit program at the University of Hawaii.

Kamehameha Schools offers support to this bill renaming the "running start program" as the "dual credit program". This measure broadens participation to include ninth and tenth graders, replaces a standardized test with an assessment, repeals tuition and fees requirements and requires that all additional qualifications be uniform across all campuses. It also appropriates moneys to the Department of Education and the University of Hawaii for positions.

Kamehameha Schools supports all efforts to help students achieve greater accomplishments in education. Programs that allow students to work simultaneously toward both a diploma and a degree support increased rates of degree attainment and so are important for developing future generations.

We ask that you help to provide our state's young people with the tools and support they need to succeed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

841 Bishop St., Suite 301
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530
Contact@HEECoalition.org

House Committee on Education
Representative Roy Takumi, Chair
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair

House Committee on Higher Education
Representative Isaac Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

March 20, 2015

Dear Chairs Takumi and Choy, Vice Chairs Ohno and Ichiyama, and Committee Members:

This testimony is in support of SB374 SD2, which renames the “running start program” as the “dual credit program.”

The Hui for Excellence in Education (HE'E) is a diverse coalition of over 40 parent and community organizations dedicated to improving student achievement by increasing family and community engagement and partnerships in our schools. Our member list is attached.

The Coalition understands that having a post-secondary degree gives choices to our youth, allowing them to prepare for jobs in our workforce as well as challenging them with higher-level thinking. However, we hear that many students do not think that college is an option because they do not have the confidence or the financial support. Jump Start and Running Start Programs have allowed high school students to experience college classes, start accumulating college credits and gain the confidence that they can succeed in a post-secondary program. We applaud these programs for giving students the opportunity and exposure while still in high school.

We support this bill, which expands the eligibility to 9th grade, giving more students the opportunity to participate in the dual credit program. In addition, we support the financial appropriation, which will allow students to participate in the dual credit program tuition free. From a parent, family and student perspective, the cost of college tuition is extremely daunting. If a student can participate in their high school years to gain college credits tuition free, it eases the burden on families and the student, especially for those families and students who are contemplating pursuing a post-secondary education because of costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Our support of this bill represents a 75% consensus or more of our membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura
HE'E Coalition Director

Academy 21
After-School All-Stars Hawaii
Alliance for Place Based Learning
*Castle Complex Community Council
*Castle-Kahuku Principal and CAS
Coalition for Children with Special Needs
*Faith Action for Community Equity
Fresh Leadership LLC
Girl Scouts Hawaii
*Good Beginnings Alliance
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation
*Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars
*Hawai'i Charter School Network
*Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition
*Hawaii State PTSA
Hawai'i State Student Council
Hawai'i State Teachers Association
Hawai'i P-20
Hawai'i 3Rs
Head Start Collaboration Office
It's All About Kids
*INPEACE
Joint Venture Education Forum
Junior Achievement of Hawaii
*Kaho'omiki
Kamehameha Schools
Kanu Hawai'i
*Kaua'i Ho'okele Council
Keiki to Career Kaua'i
Kupu A'e
*Leaders for the Next Generation
Learning First
McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds
Our Public School
*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning
*Parents and Children Together

*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i
Punahou School PUEO Program
Teach for America
The Learning Coalition
US PACOM
University of Hawai'i College of Education
YMCA of Honolulu

Voting Members () Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the coalition.*



1003 Bishop Street • Pauahi Tower • Suite 2630 • Honolulu, HI 96813

Phone: (808) 532-2244 • Fax: (808) 545-2025

Testimony to the House Committees on Education and Higher Education

Friday, March 20, 2015

2:00 p.m.

Conference Room 309

RE: RELATING TO DUAL CREDIT PROGRAMS – SENATE BILL 374 SD2

Chairs Takumi and Choy, Vice Chairs Ohno and Ichiyama, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Gary Kai and I am the Executive Director of the Hawaii Business Roundtable. The Hawaii Business Roundtable fully supports Senate Bill 374, SD2 relating to Dual Credit Programs.

As the leaders of their businesses, the members of the Hawaii Business Roundtable employ thousands of Hawaii's citizens, many of whom are graduates of Hawaii's public school system. They fully understand that Hawaii's economic future, like the rest of our Country, hinges on ensuring that today's students are prepared to meet the global, technical, workforce demands of tomorrow's jobs; and tomorrow is not that far away. In just five years, 70 percent of jobs in Hawaii will require some college. Yet, only 62 percent of Hawaii's workforce will have sufficient educational attainment.

For over 10 years Hawai'i has promoted dual credit opportunities, which allows high school students to take college level courses for college and high school credit at a UH campus. The outcomes of these students show that they have higher college-going rates, higher likelihood to enroll in college, higher likelihood to remain in college, and higher likelihood to graduate with a degree or certificate. These are outcomes that are consistent with the need to meet the workforce demands of Hawaii. We believe that this is a strong component of a multi level approach that is needed to prepare our young people for the future they deserve.

We fully support the efforts to make the program a long term part of the solution and to expand it further. We applaud the collaborative efforts of the University of Hawaii and the Department of Education and will continue to provide our support.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

Gary K. Kai, Executive Director
Hawaii Business Roundtable

I wish to submit testimony in support of SB 374 and HB 95 regarding Early College

As a partner in promoting college success for more than five years here in Hawaii at both Leeward Community College in my immediate past and now with Hawaii Community College, I wish to express my strong support for legislative funding for Early College initiatives in our state. I have first-hand experience as a former principal and superintendent in New York State with dual enrollment efforts and have seen only positive results from offering college-ready students the opportunity to earn college credits while in high school. Having attended the Early College National Conference in North Carolina last year to help present the excellent results of Leeward Community College's recent grant-funded partnership with Waipahu High School, I can attest to the fact that Early College works best in those states where there is strong legislative and gubernatorial support, including the allocation of funds to support students taking college classes at a significant scale.

National data clearly demonstrate that those students who earn college credits while in high school are significantly more likely to graduate from both high school and from college. States like Texas, North Carolina, Tennessee, Ohio and Georgia have programs of significant scale that promote the active participation of as many students as can show their ability to benefit, such that students can earn both their high school diploma and an Associate degree concurrently. One of my former students, now a teacher in New York himself, recently told me proudly about his daughter's experience in doing exactly that – earning her high school diploma and her AA last June from Tompkins-Cortland Community College through the dual enrollment Early College program there, a partnership I helped initiate more than twenty-five years ago.

A parent of a current Running Start student myself, I strongly support the notion that Hawaii's high schoolers deserve the same chance to advance their college aspiration as high school students have in many other mainland states. Data show of the 47 states (plus the District of Columbia) that have statewide policies in place governing dual credit programs, only 9 require parents to pay for the student's participation. Hawaii is sadly one of those nine under the current Running Start legislation. This is the time to change that.

I strongly encourage our legislature to appropriately accept the challenge of working with the University and the DOE to promote college success for all of our young adults and enable achievement of the 55 by 25 goal, by harnessing the momentum already established by Waipahu High School, P-20 and others and supporting a budget bill offered perhaps uniquely by both UH and DOE as articulated in SB 374 and HB 95.

If there is anything further I can do to promote Hawaii joining the many other states that actively support such Early College initiatives, please have a member of your staff contact me at Hawaii Community College at 808-934-2519 or at cmanaser@hawaii.edu.

Thank you for considering this important legislative proposal.

Sincerely,

Christopher B. Manaseri, Ph.D.
Dean of Liberal Arts and Public Services
Hawaii Community College

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Rep. Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, March 20, 2015
TIME: 2:00 pm
PLACE: Conference Room 309
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

SB374 Support with Reservations

Fern Mossman HD 50

Dear Representatives:

#1. Regarding the term” eligible students in Section 2,(b) on Line 11 on page 3

Please include home school students also .

It is only fair that all our young students, who desire to achieve be encouraged to do so, and be provided the same advantages and benefits others receive. Please reinstate the original wording which included homeschool students.

"Eligible student" means a public high school student in the ninth,
tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade who:

#2. Omit the phrase: “an assessment approved” and

Reinstate the phrase: [a standardized test administered]

- (1) Has passed [~~a standardized test administered~~] an assessment approved by the college that demonstrates the student's ability to succeed at the college level;

Thank you for working to empower all the students of our Hawaii ohana.

Respectfully submitted,

Fern Mossman

Aloha Representatives of the Committees of Education and Higher Education:

I support SB 374 with some recommended additions, but I do not support some of the changes in SD2 or the Standing Committee Report 877 regarding home school students.

SB 374 states: "The purposes of this Act are to: broaden current law to include all dual credit programs; broaden eligibility to participate in the program; allow for multiple measures of assessment to determine eligibility; and appropriate funds for the instruction, courses, and administration of college credits, thus allowing broader participation by various types of students."

To "allow broader participation of various types of students", I testified before the Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education and the Arts asking that public, private and home school students be included in the bill as eligible for the program. SB 374 SD1 reflected this inclusion. However, after the Senate Ways and Means Committee heard testimony from the Attorney General's Office that there are problems with including private education students to the bill, both private and home school students were removed and only "public" school students remained.

If you refer to the A.G.'s testimony, the only students that it mentions are private school students, not home school students. Its concerns were based on the "prohibition that public funds cannot be appropriated 'for the support or benefit of any sectarian or nonsectarian private educational institution' and prohibits private school students' participation into the DOE's program". Home school students are not an "institution" and many already participate in DOE programs.

Sadly, the Standing Committee Report 877 states:

However, your Committee further finds that inclusion of private school students in the dual credit program would violate article X, section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, which prohibits the use of public funds "for the support or benefit of any sectarian or nonsectarian private educational institution", and interpretation of that provision in Spears v. Honda, 449 P.2d 130, 51 Haw. 1 (1968).

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

(1) Deleting the provision making private and home-schooled students eligible for the Dual Credit Program;

Why have home school students been deleted from the bill? No violation to the Hawaii State Constitution has been shown concerning home school students. In fact, home school students have not even been mentioned in the debate.

Also, I would like to address the testimony for SB 374 SD1 provided by Karen Lee of the University of Hawaii. The only statement she makes concerning home school students is that "it would be very difficult to administer" since the program runs through the Hawai'i Department

of Education. It is very sad that a population of students would be rejected from a program with the stated goal of “allowing broader participation by various types of students” simply because something is deemed “difficult”. Do we not teach our students to strive for excellence and do what is right even if it is difficult?

I am not sure that everyone involved in making this decision is aware that homeschool students are already involved in many public high school programs such as taking academic classes, JROTC, and driver’s education.

Every home school student must provide their area public school principal a letter of intent to homeschool. We are then sent form 4041 from the DOE (not a private institution) and are accountable to each principal of the school that our children would attend for annual progress reports verifying that individual students (not institutions) are meeting education standards. Yearly, we are sent information from the schools inviting our children to take standardized tests with their students at no cost to us. We are already in the “system”. I do not think the administration would be as difficult as Ms. Lee projects.

All of this also begs the question about charter school students. Will they qualify for the program? If so, how will they be administered? They are not traditional students attending our “brick and mortar” public high schools either.

I am a home school mother who has a daughter currently dual-enrolled at Leeward Community College (LCC) and two others that have since graduated but attended both Honolulu Community College (HCC) and LCC.

For most homeschool families, we are one-income households. The financial help would be tremendous. We receive no financial assistance or breaks while educating our children, even though our tax dollars are heavily utilized for education.

Lastly, I would like to address acceptance standards at the community colleges. Presently, there are no uniformed standards for home school students in the dual-enrollment programs; they are different at each campus. Also, there are different acceptance standards within an institution between home school and public school students. For instance:

Admission requirements for home school students:

Honolulu Community College (HCC) :

1. UH system application
2. Early College application
3. Submit shot records
4. Meet with a HCC counselor
5. Take the Compass test and pass into 100 level or better courses

Windward Community College (WCC):

1. UH System Application via online
2. Early Admissions Application. This application is valid for only one semester.
3. High School transcript sent directly from the high school to Admissions and Records Office
4. If homeschooling, DOE Form 4140 Exceptions to Compulsory Education
5. Provide proof of MMR and Tuberculosis Clearance within 12 months of start of term
6. Meet with a WCC counselor
7. Take the Compass test and pass into 100 level or better courses

Leeward Community College (LCC):

1. UH System Application via online
2. Early Admissions Application. This application is valid for only one semester
3. If homeschooling, DOE Form 4140 Exceptions to Compulsory Education
4. Request for official SAT or ACT test scores be sent to the Leeward Admn and Records (minimum scores for admission is 510 SAT or 24 ACT).
5. Provide proof of MMR and Tuberculosis Clearance within 12 months of start of term
6. Write a personal statement explaining your expectations and goals for enrolling at LCC
7. Meet with a LCC counselor
8. Take the Compass test and pass into 100 level or better courses

Admission requirements for public school students at the community colleges :

1. Get signatures from their parents, counselor and principal,
2. Submit the UH system Application
3. Submit the Early Application/Running Start Program Application
4. Take the Compass test and pass into 100 level or better courses

As you can see, there are many differences between the community colleges for home school students, and vast differences between what is required for home school students and public school students. I would like to especially point out the striking inequity at L.C.C. Current 11th and 12th grade home school students must score 510 on each sub-test on the SAT or 24 on the ACT. For guaranteed admittance to UH Manoa students must score 510 on the SAT and only 22 on the ACT. Why are home school juniors and seniors, applying for a junior college, required the same or higher scores than graduated students to get into a 4-year institution? This should not be.

All students, whether public or home schooled, should be considered by equal standards and given equal opportunities to excel.

I support SB 374 with the above requested changes. I believe the monies spent and standards set must include all students equally, public and home school.

Mahalo for your time and thoughtful consideration,

Lisa Poulos

SB 374 SD2 RELATING TO DUAL CREDIT PROGRAMS

POSITION: Support with additions

Aloha Chair Takumi, Chair Choy and Members of the Committee:

This testimony is being submitted in favor of SB374 SD2 with recommended additions and/or clarity of language in regards to “eligible student”.

I request that the current bill be restated as in SB374-SD1 bill:

“Eligible student” means a public, private, or home-schooled high school student in the ninth, tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade

Per committee reports SB374-SD2 changes have been made by “deleting the provisions making private and home-schooled students eligible for the Dual Credit Program”, thus excluding such private and home-schooled students from the current SB374 bill.

I am a graduate of the Hawai‘i public school system, my husband a Hawai‘i private school graduate, and currently my children are home-schooled. My oldest son, a senior, is currently taking dual enrollment classes at Leeward Community College. While his goal is to pursue a doctorate in Physical Therapy, taking dual enrollment classes at a University of Hawai‘i Community College has allowed my son to receive ‘dual’ college and high school credit. He is also interning as a Physical Therapist, maintaining a 4.0 in his high school classes, as well a 4.0 at LCC, and working to help pay for his tuition. My son, like most Hawai‘i students, whether public, private, or home-schooled, would like to pursue additional college courses, but cannot afford the college tuition.

If this bill becomes inclusive to all high school students in Hawai‘i, it will encourage students from all educational backgrounds to continue education beyond high school. Most families, regardless of home schooling or sending children to public or private school, struggle financially.

Majority of home-schooled families have one-income households. Even though our tax dollars are utilized for education within Hawaii, we receive no educational financial breaks or assistance. I support a dual credit program in the state of Hawai‘i that includes eligible students to mean public, private, and home-schooled high school students. Equality for all.

Mahalo,
A. Jeanine Wong

To: House Education and Higher Education Committees
Date: March 20, 2015
Time: 2:00pm
Place: Conference Room 309

LATE TESTIMONY

Re: SB374 SD2 RELATING TO DUAL CREDIT PROGRAMS

Aloha Education Committee Members,

This bill would give more opportunities to more students to get a head start in their adult life but I would strongly advise the committee to include homeschoolers once again in the definition of eligible students.

Homeschoolers were added to SD1, then removed in SD2. As I read through all the testimonies, the only reasoning I could find to remove them, was that it would be difficult to administer this program to homeschoolers. I wonder how or why this hurdle could not be overcome.

Homeschoolers answer to the DOE by way of the local public school. Before beginning to homeschool, parents must submit a notice of intent to the local public school their child would have attended. They then receive form 4140, Exceptions to Compulsory Education, from the school, which is signed by the principal and the district superintendent acknowledging our notice.

At the end of the school year, they have to submit a progress report to the school. Clearly, homeschoolers are under the jurisdiction of the public school system in Hawaii. Many states include homeschoolers in this type of system already.

I believe it would be discrimination if homeschoolers were not included in this bill.

Mahalo for your time and attention to this matter,

Lora Burbage